

Eastern Sierra Nevada & Northern Mojave Desert

Recreation Information Update

September 8 - 14, 2010

Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center

Junction of US HWY 395 & SR 136
Lone Pine, California 93545

(760) 876-6222
TDD 876-6228

Open Daily: 8:00am to 6:00pm

ROADS: Eastern Sierra roads are open including US Hwy 395. Trans Sierra roads are open. Call 1-800-427-ROAD (1-800-427-7623), or visit the website at www.dot.ca.gov, for California highway conditions and construction schedules. For Nevada roads, visit the web at www.nevadadot.com/traveler/roads or call 1-877-NVROADS (1-877-687-6237).

Don't miss the sights - Let someone else drive! **YARTS** (The Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System) runs weekends from the communities of Mammoth Lakes, June Lake & Lee Vining to Yosemite Valley; visit the web at www.yarts.com for a schedule.

Shuttle bus service to **DEVILS POSTPILE NATIONAL MONUMENT** and Reds Meadow is in operation through 9/8. The road will remain open after 9/8 for daily access (recreation fee area). Visit the **MAMMOTH LAKES WELCOME CENTER** for more information, recreation conditions, wilderness permits and visitor guides; open 8:00am to 5:00pm daily, or call 1-760-924-5500.

Major highways through **DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK** are open; know and use **hot weather** safety tips. The Big Pine, Devils Golf Course, West Side, Salt Creek, Charcoal Kilns and Mahogany Flat dirt roads are open. Titus Canyon road is open; high clearance vehicles recommended. The North Pass Road into Saline Valley is open; high clearance 4x4 recommended. The South Pass road into Saline Valley is posted closed due to washouts and rocky debris from recent flooding. Rangers ask visitors traveling to remote desert valleys to leave a complete itinerary at home, obtain a good backcountry road map and be prepared for the unexpected. Drivers need to be sure their vehicle is in good condition and to carry an additional spare tire, extra gas, food and water. Check the website at www.nps.gov/deva ("Plan Your Visit & Things To Do" section) for descriptions of backcountry roads, and the Morning Report for current information.

WEATHER: A Pacific storm system is forecast to move across Northern California Thursday, producing gusty winds, lower temperatures and a slight chance of precipitation in the Sierra Nevada. Sunny days with warming temperatures are expected for the Eastern Sierra and Northern Mojave regions through the weekend, as high pressure gradually builds over the region. Highs have been in the 40s in the mountains, mid 80s in the Owens Valley and over 105 in Death Valley, with the lows ranging from the 30s in the mountains, to the 70s in Death Valley.

CAMPGROUNDS: **INYO COUNTY, MONO COUNTY** and **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT** sites are open. Privately operated campgrounds and RV facilities with hookups are open throughout the region.

INYO and HUMBOLDT-TOIYABE NATIONAL FORESTS, Lone Pine to Bridgeport, campgrounds are open. **BEARS ARE ACTIVE** - use food storage lockers when provided and check with campground hosts for more information. Please make sure that all food and trash is properly stored. Some Forest Service campsites are reservable; family sites 240 days in advance and group sites 360 days ahead of arrival. Check the website at recreation.gov or call 1-877-444-6777 for more information.

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK - Yosemite Valley, Wawona (SR 41), Hodgdon Meadows (SR 120 near Big Oak Flat), Crane Flat and Tuolumne Meadows have sites open and reservable. Reservations are accepted five months in advance on the 15th of each month, for a one-month block through recreation.gov; or call 1-877-444-6777. Campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis at Porcupine Flat, Yosemite Creek, White Wolf (closing 9/13), Tamarack Flat, Bridalveil Creek (on Glacier Point Road-closing 9/13), Camp Four walk-in campground in Yosemite Valley, one-half of Crane Flat and one-half of Tuolumne Meadows. Call 1-209-372-0200 for recorded Yosemite information, or visit the park web site at www.nps.gov/yose.

In **DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK**, open campgrounds include: Furnace Creek, Mesquite Springs, Emigrant (tent only/free), Thorndike (no water/no fee/no campfires), Mahogany Flat (no water/no fee/no campfires) and Wildrose (no water/no fee/no campfires). Visit the park website at www.nps.gov/deva for more information. RV hook-ups are available at Furnace Creek Ranch, Stovepipe Wells Village and Panamint Springs Resort.

Campgrounds are open in the **SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST** on the Kern River and at Lake Isabella on a reservation, or a first-come/first-served basis. For more information call 1-760-376-3781, or visit the web at www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia.

Cooperating Agencies of the Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center

Inyo County

California - Department of Transportation

Bureau of Land Management

California - Department of Fish & Game

National Park Service

Mono County

City of Los Angeles - Department of Water & Power

USDA - Forest Service

FISHING: The general fishing season is open in the Eastern Sierra and its waters are stocked regularly by the California Department of Fish and Game. The 2010 Eastern Sierra Fishing Guide is available at sporting good stores throughout the region. The Mono County website at www.monocounty.com has fishing reports for many of its lakes and streams. Copies of California fishing regulations are available at the Visitor Center, or on the web at www.dfg.ca.gov.

HUNTING: General and archery season for doves is open through 9/15. Archery season for quail, chukar and Blue/Ruffed grouse is open through 9/10 in the Eastern Sierra. General hunting season for Mountain Quail, Blue/Ruffed Grouse and Ptarmigan opens 9/11. Sage Grouse season is open 9/11 & 9/12 (permit only). Archery season for deer is open through 9/12 in zones X-8, X-9a/b/c and X-12 (primarily Alpine, Mono and Inyo Counties). Archery on the west side of the Sierra crest is open through 9/12 in zones D-6 (north & west of Yosemite National Park), D-8 (north, west & south of Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Parks, also the northern portion of the Sequoia National Forest) and D-9 (between SR 178 & SR 58 with SR 14 on the east). Archery season for deer in D-17 (primarily San Bernardino County, including the Mojave National Preserve) is open through 9/26. Hunters should keep in mind many people use these areas for other types of sports; it's much safer to avoid hunting near developed sites, roads and trails. Hunting is not permitted in National Parks.

BACKCOUNTRY: Backpackers should be prepared for sudden weather changes. Hikers should expect below freezing night time temperatures in the mountains. **Be Bear Aware** when parking at trailheads; vehicles must not be left with any food or related items that will attract these animals and result in significant damage. Hikers should be aware; archery hunting season for deer and general season for upland game birds is open in the Sierra Nevada for many locations (except National Parks). In areas open to hunting, it's a good idea to wear bright colored clothes and stay on the trails. **BEARS** (and other hungry animals, including marmots) are active in the backcountry. Backpackers should be prepared to protect their food (and all other items that emit odors) from such animals at all times! Backpackers are required to use portable, bear resistant food canisters on the Cottonwood Pass, Cottonwood Lakes, Mt. Whitney, Kearsarge Pass, Bishop Pass, Treasure Lakes, Dusy Basin, Palisade, Little Lakes Valley, Duck Pass/Purple Lake and Mammoth Lakes/Rush Creek trails of the National Forest and some Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Park trails. They are available to rent at many locations including the Visitor Center.

WILDERNESS PERMITS are required for overnight travel all year long. Trailhead quotas, which limit the number of hikers on trails, are in effect for Eastern Sierra wilderness areas, permits may be obtained at the InterAgency Visitor Center (Lone Pine), Bishop Ranger Station, Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center, Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center (Lee Vining) and Bridgeport Ranger Station during office hours. For information on Inyo National Forest wilderness permits, please visit the website at www.fs.fed.us/r5/inyo. Reservations for these permits (except Whitney) can be made up to six months in advance of the starting date of a trip, by phone at 1-760-873-2483, fax to 1-760-873-2484, or by mail - 351 Pacu Lane, Suite 200, Bishop, CA, 93514.

THIS WEEK'S FUN: In Bishop, **GOOD OLE DAYS at the LAWS RAILROAD MUSEUM**, Saturday 9/12, 10:00am to 5:00pm, with lots of family fun including train rides for the kids, food and live music. For information, call 1-760-873-5950.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

MONO COUNTY MUSEUM in Bridgeport is open Tuesday - Saturday from 9:00am to 4:00pm, with great exhibits and photos of old mining days, also a fine collection of Paiute baskets.

BODIE STATE HISTORIC PARK is open daily 8:00am to 6:00pm; the museum is open from 9:00am to 5:00pm. A history talk is presented daily at 10:00am. Other interpretive programs are offered; check at the museum for information. Visitors should bring food and several layers of clothes for a visit to Bodie; dogs must be on a six ft. leash (recreation fee area).

Interpretive programs are offered at the **MONO BASIN NATIONAL FOREST SCENIC AREA/TUFA STATE RESERVE**. Nature walks are presented Saturday & Sunday at 1:00pm. Meet at the South Tufa parking lot. Check at the Visitor Center, one mile north of Lee Vining on HWY 395, open 8:00am to 5:00pm daily, for a complete list of activities.

EASTERN CALIFORNIA MUSEUM in Independence is open from 10:00am to 5:00pm daily with exhibits on Inyo County, including a significant collection of Native American baskets and artifacts from Manzanar NHS.

The Interpretive Center at **MANZANAR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**, located 5 miles south of Independence, is open daily from 9:00am to 5:30pm. Ranger programs are presented on Saturday and Sunday at 11:00am and 2:00pm. For more program information, call 1-760-878-2194 ext. 2710. Water, sunglasses and sunscreen are a must - Please No Pets!

Visit the **MUSEUM OF LONE PINE FILM HISTORY**, with exhibits celebrating the heroes, the films and the locations of the many movies shot in the area. A special orientation film is available on request. The museum opens daily at 10:00am, closing at 6:00pm Monday through Wednesday, at 7:00pm Thursday through Saturday, and at 4:00pm on Sunday.

DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK VISITOR CENTER at Furnace Creek is open daily from 8:00am to 5:00pm. **SCOTTY'S CASTLE** has "Living History" tours from 9:30am to 4:00pm daily.

Visit the **KERN VALLEY MUSEUM** to explore the fascinating history of the Old West through artifacts and memorabilia that make history come alive, in Kernville; open 10:00am to 4:00pm Thursday through Sunday.

Reports on current recreation conditions, schedules of planned events and detailed information on visitor destinations throughout the Eastern Sierra Nevada and Northern Mojave Desert are available daily at the Visitor Center. 9/8/10kcw